

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 25, 2004. Claims 1, 2, and 4 to 15 are in the application, with Claims 1 and 11 being independent. Claims 1 and 11 have been amended herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, and 4 to 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,478,606 (Ohkuma) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,166,265 (Nakahata). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

According to one feature of the invention, the contact angle of the cured product of the resin composition is approximately the same as the contact angle of a cured product of the curable epoxy compound. It will be appreciated that the term "contact angle" does not appear in the specification. However, Applicants submit that the foregoing feature is inherently supported by, e.g., Experiment 4. See Declaration filed September 2, 2003.

Ohkuma and Nakahata, either singly or in combination, are not seen to teach or suggest at least the foregoing feature.

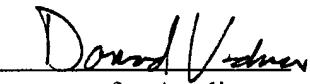
Moreover, neither Ohkuma nor Nakahata is seen to teach or suggest the feature of the coating resin layer facilitating a smooth flow of ink through the liquid flow path. As discussed in the December 31, 2003 Request for Reconsideration, it is Applicants understanding that Nakahata's composition would likely result in exfoliation of the resin layer, a property which would inhibit the smooth flow of ink through the ink flow path.

Applicants therefore conclude that the applied documents do not teach or suggest the claimed invention, and it is respectfully requested that the Section 103 rejection be withdrawn.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants
Damond E. Vadnais
Registration No. 52,310

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile No.: (212) 218-2200
DEV/vc

DC_MAIN 170107v1